

3.	bàtá	ş'ò fé bătá pūpā	rárá.	mō fé bătá dǔdú
	filà	ş'ò fé filà pūpā	rárá.	mō fé filà dǔdú
	èwù	ş'ò féwù pūpā	rárá.	mō fé èwù dǔdú

UNIT 6

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'I want to buy a book'

A

fé

want

rà

buy

iwě

book

mō fé' rāwě

Mo fé ra iwe.

I want to buy a book.

B

èlǒ

how much?

èlǒ nī

Èlo nī?

How much is it?

A

şilê

shilling

òkān

one

şilê kān

Şilê kan.

One shilling.

B

mō rà kān lánǎ

Mo ra kan nī ana.

I bought one yesterday.

A

èlǒ lǒ' rǎ'

Èlo nī o raa?

How much did you pay  
[for] it?

## B

sísî

sixpence

sísî

Sísì.

Sixpence.

## B. NOTES.

1. Elision involving 1.

Compare the forms:

mō fẹ́' rọ̀bẹ́ 'I want to buy a knife'

mō fẹ́' rā ọ̀bẹ́ 'I want to buy a knife'

Again, as in Unit 5, we find assimilation between the final vowel of the verb and the first vowel of its noun object. In this example, it is the vowel of the verb stem rà which is lost. What remains is identical with the initial vowel of the noun object in quality and in tone.

Now compare these additional forms:

mō fẹ́' rāwě 'I want to buy a book'

mō fẹ́' rā iwě 'I want to buy a book'

Here again, complete loss of a unit of vowel length takes place as we go from deliberate to casual style, but the quality of the vowel that remains is that of the verb stem, not of the first syllable of the noun object. This happens when the first syllable of the noun object is 1- .

## 2. Low verb before an object in deliberate style has mid tone.

Compare the phrases:

mō rā iwě 'I bought a book'

mō rāwě 'I bought a book'

When a low verb (e.g. rà) is used before a noun object in the deliberate style (i.e. with no contraction), it has mid tone.

3. Notice the phrase:

èlǒ lǒ'rá'                      'How much did you pay for it?'

The internal structure of this phrase will not be the subject of drills at this stage.

C. Exercises.

1. Tones of a low verb in contracted vs. uncontracted phrases.

ìwě	'book'	mō ràwě	mō rā ìwě
ìlù	'drum'	mō ràlù	mō rā ìlù
ìdè	'fetter'	mō ràdè	mō rā ìdè
ìbōn	'gun'	mō ràbōn	mō rā ìbōn

Practice the above material, two columns at a time, so that when you hear either member of a pair of synonymous utterances, you can respond immediately with the other:

Columns 1 and 2

Columns 2 and 3

Columns 3 and 2

2. Now do the same with these three columns.

a.	òpǎ	'walking stick'	ā ròpǎ	ā rā òpǎ
	òkě	'large bag'	ā ròkě	ā rā òkě
	ìwě	'book'	ā ràwě	ā rā ìwě
b.	òbē	'knife'	ā ròbē	ā rā òbē
	òbō	'monkey'	ā ròbō	ā rā òbō
	ìbōn	'gun'	ā ràbōn	ā rā ìbōn

c.	ẹ̀wù	'shirt'	ā rẹ̀wù	ā rā ẹ̀wù
	ọ̀kọ̀	'spear'	ā rọ̀kọ̀	ā rā ọ̀kọ̀
	ilù	'drum'	ā rálù	ā rā ilù

D. Supplementary material: Some additional modifiers of nouns.

1.    írú                            'kind, sort'
- |        |   |              |
|--------|---|--------------|
| gígún  | } | 'long, tall' |
| gúngún |   |              |
| kúkúró | } | 'short'      |
| kíkúró |   |              |
- dídará                            'good'
- òmọ̀                                'child'
- òbìnrín                            'woman'
- òkùnrín                            'man'
- írín                                'steel, iron'
- 
- |               |                 |                         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| mō fẹ́ rọ̀bẹ́ | mō fẹ́ rā ọ̀bẹ́ | 'I want to buy a knife' |
| ọ̀bẹ́ ńrú wó  | ọ̀bẹ́ írú èwó   | 'what kind of knife?'   |
| ọ̀bẹ́ gígún   |                 | 'a long knife'          |
| ọ̀bẹ́ kúkúró  |                 | 'a short knife'         |
| ọ̀bẹ́ dídará  |                 | 'a good knife'          |
| ọ̀bẹ́ írín    |                 | 'a steel knife'         |
- 
2.    òmọ̀wó ló ń rí                            'which child did you see?'
- òmọ̀ bìnrín                                'a girl'
- òmọ̀ kùnrín                                'a boy'